Riggs County Park Master Plan



February 1999



Schreiber/Anderson Associates, Inc.

RESOLUTION NO. 175-98

RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE MASTER PLAN REPORT - RIGGS COUNTY PARK

WHEREAS, Fond du Lac County identified the need for a Ripon area county park in the Fond du Lac County Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Plan adopted by Resolution 185-94, dated March 21, 1995, and

WHEREAS, since that time the county has purchased the former Sherwood Farm to serve as a county park to be known as Riggs County Park, and

WHEREAS, Schreiber/Anderson Associates of Madison, Wisconsin assisted the Fond du Lac County Parks and Development Committee and the Riggs County Park Advisory Committee in the preparation of a master plan to prepare guidelines and cost estimates for the development of Riggs County Park, and

WHEREAS, these committees met on four occasions throughout the fall and winter of 1998-99 to develop the Master Plan Report - Riggs County Park dated January, 1999 and the committees recommend adoption of the master plan by the Fond du Lac County Board of Supervisors.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Fond du Lac County Board of Supervisors that the attached Master Plan Report - Riggs County Park, dated January 1999 be hereby adopted as a guide for development of Riggs County Park.

Dated February 9 , 1999

SEE ATTACHED AMENDMENTS

Torethe Bounday

PARKS AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

FISCAL NOTE: The master plan includes a six phase capital improvement plan totaling \$4,055,745.00. The CIP assumes that all improvements are contracted and does not account for development work that may be done by the Wisconsin Conservation Corp., volunteer labor and future donations. The plan will be implemented as allowed by the Fond du Lac County Board during future county budgets.

APPROVED BY:

APPROVED BY:

Allen J. Buechel

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

William J. Bendt

CORPORATION COUNSEL

AMENDMENTS:

- 1) Be it further resolved that the Parks and Development Committee shall present to the full County Board the total capital cost, plus annual & operational cost before each phase of the master plan.
- 2) The pool should be taken out of Phase #3 and put in Phase # 6
- 3) Change the Master Plan Report for Riggs County Park --On page 14 under Phase #3 (3.6) omit boardwalk in the amount of \$66,000
 On page 16 subtract \$66,000 from the total of all phases (\$4,366,121) for
 a total of \$4,300,121.00

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Riggs County Park Master Plan was prepared for Fond du Lac County and the Fond du Lac County Parks and Development Committee. Decisions and preliminary approvals were made by the Parks and Development Committee, Riggs County Park Advisory Committee, and the County Planning Department. We appreciate the input and guidance of the following individuals in the development of this Master Plan.

Parks and Development Committee

Raymond Puddy, Chair James Pohlman David Twohig Wendall Eastman Timothy Baumhardt

Riggs County Park Advisory Committee

Bernice Bartz William Brooks Mary Dolata Lawrence Hauman Laura Keplin Jack King Phillip Priebe EmaJean Westphal Cliff Bryden Laurie Kasuboski Susan Krause Doug Lyke Mary Lyke Lil Milbrandt Allen Seeliger Warren Sherman George "Skip" Wittler



County Planning Staff

Sam Tobias, County Planning and Parks Director Terry Dietzel, Assistant County Planner



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgments
Table of Contents
Introduction
Site Inventory and Analysis
Public Participation
Master Plan
Maintenance and Operations Projections
Appendix A Site Inventory and Analysis Maps
Appendix B Riggs County Park Location Map and Concept Plans
Appendix C Archaeological Consulting and Services, Inc. Reports of Investigations
Appendix D WDNR Plant List
Appendix E Glacial Habitat Restoration Project Types
Appendix F Friends of Schumacher Farm Newsletter



INTRODUCTION

Purpose of Plan

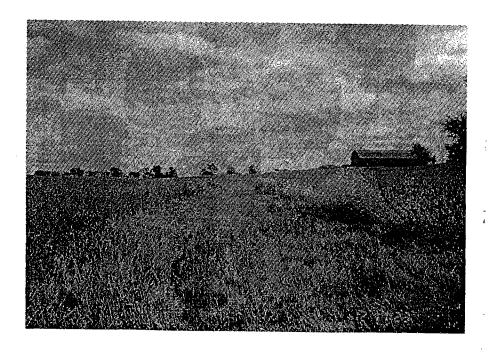
The purpose of the Riggs County Park Master Plan is to provide a comprehensive guide to the development of the park and to integrate the new park into the existing context of the region.

Riggs County Park will be the closest county park facility to the City of Ripon. It will provide a county park to the residents of the northwest corner of the county. Approximately 10,000 people live within the service area of this park.

Planning Process

Preparation of the plan included the following steps:

- Review of available background information and community planning documents.
- Inventory and analysis of park site conditions.
- Assessment of community recreation needs, incorporating input from public focus groups and park and city officials.
- Formulation of design alternatives.
- Refinement of the selected design and preparation of accompanying narrative.
- Preparation of a phased implementation plan and cost estimate.
- Incorporation of all master plan elements into this report.





SITE INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

Site inventory is the process of gathering facts about the site using maps, aerial photography and onsite investigation. The inventory for Riggs County Park included the following data:

- Man-made elements such as existing buildings, farm roads, trails, and drainage ditches.
- Natural elements such as topography, soils and vegetation.
- Site characteristics such as views into or out from the site, spatial patterns, forms and textures, and general impressions.
- Regional or off-site factors that affect the site.

The inventory information was analyzed to help determine the suitability, capacity and opportunities for alternative park designs. Refer to the site analysis maps in Appendix A for more information.

Regional Setting

Riggs County Park is a 299-acre site located in parts of sections 22, 23, 26 and 27 of Ripon Township (see Map # 1 in Appendix B). It is just east of the City of Ripon along State Trunk Highway (STH) 23. The park is located in the Town of Ripon and is zoned agricultural, as are most of the surrounding parcels. West of the site is the City of Ripon, with a mixture of industrial areas and residential neighborhoods. Rosendale is approximately 13 miles to the east of the site along STH 23.

Land Use

Currently the uplands of the property are being cropped. The County has an agreement that specifies when the land will be available for park development. Crops will continue until the year 2000 at 150 acres, then the amount of cropped land will be reduced until the land is no longer cropped in 2005. The lowlands of the site are too wet to crop; the existing vegetation is a mixture of wet prairie forbs and grasses, cattails, boxelders and wetland shrubs.

North of Site

The site is bordered on the north by an abandoned rail line.

East of Site

Privately owned agricultural lands border the east.

South of Site

The south property line is bordered by STH 23, two private residences and a school building currently being used as a storage site for the school district. The south side of STH 23 has additional private residences and agricultural fields.

West of Site

A canning factory, the Town of Ripon Hall and the Sherwood Farm residence line the western property border.

Other Park Facilities Close to the Site

The City of Ripon has a number of recreational facilities. Closest to the site are Selfridge Park, Southeast Park and Horner Park. Of these, only Selfridge Park is developed. It offers fishing, picnic grounds, a playground and shelter building, and access to Gothic Mill Pond. Ripon Senior High School is within one mile of Riggs County Park and offers a 1/4-mile running track, basketball courts, tennis courts, a softball field and an indoor pool.

Archaeological Study

During the fall of 1998 an archeological study of the site was conducted. No Native American artifacts were recovered from the project area. Euro-American materials were limited to surface finds of recent age and a piece of glass. The archaeologist recommended no additional archaeological work for the project area, since no sites were encountered which might be eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. Appendix C contains a copy of the report.

Circulation

Vehicular access to the site is limited to the south and west edges. STH 23 is a controlled access highway. The County will have to cooperate with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation to provide access to the park. Riggs County Park has six potential vehicular access points along STH 23: five for public or private use, one solely for public use. Access to the park site from Douglas Street (the west side of the site) will be difficult due to a wide drainage ditch that handles a large amount of water from the southeast corner of the City of Ripon. Road access is unavailable from the north side due to an abandoned railroad bed, and from the east side due to current use as farm fields.

Soils Analysis

The soils analysis map in Appendix A shows that the areas most suitable for recreation development are located in the far east and southern portions of the park. Approximately 185 acres of the site are considered wetlands. The upland areas adjacent to STH 23 that are suitable for development are currently being cropped. The soils suitable for septic fields are located in the southeast corner and the high ground along STH 23.

Topography and Drainage Analysis

The site gently slopes down from STH 23 on the south side of the site to the wetlands on the north side of the site. There are numerous drainage ditches that drain the farm lands located south and east of the site. These may be moved to accommodate park development but their capacity to carry water must remain the same. A small island (about 12 acres) rises out of the wetlands in the center of the site. This rise affords very nice views of the site. The location in the wetland allows the visitor to feel isolated from the rest of the site and offers nice views of the rest of the park.

Development of a pond is restricted to those areas of the park not within the wetland limits. A pond is best located on the uplands in the south east corner or perhaps just off of STH 23 on the small knoll above the spring house.

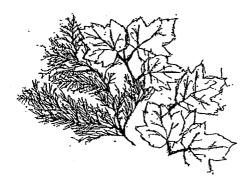




Vegetation Analysis

The original vegetation that covered the area between Ripon and Rosendale prior to European settlement generally consisted of prairie grass, oak trees and hickory trees on the uplands. The lowlands were vegetated with marsh grasses, water-loving prairie forbs and water-tolerant shrubs. Now the vegetation on the site consists of wetland vegetation in the low lying areas, with some mesic prairie species, many boxelders and cottonwood trees, a few oak trees, and soybean fields on the uplands.

Appendix D contains a cursory plant list created during a brief visit by DNR personnel in the fall of 1998. The plant list indicates that a variety of wet prairie plants already exist on the site. This may make vegetation restoration somewhat easier.



PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Public participation is an important element in master plan development. It helps identify park and recreation issues and needs, and stimulates broader public involvement. This involvement generates understanding and support for proposed development projects. Support generated during the master plan process can translate into assistance in terms of monetary donations and volunteer labor during the implementation phase of the project.

Meetings to Develop the Design Program

Fond du Lac County and SAA hosted three meetings in October to provide various interested parties an opportunity to shape the design program for the park. On October 12, 1998 we met with representatives from Fond du Lac County and the City of Ripon. On October 21 we held two meetings to gather public opinion on development of the site.

While participation was open to the general public, the County specifically invited representatives from groups that had a stated interest either in the park itself or outdoor recreation in general. The following groups were represented at the October design program development meetings:

Wildlife interests — a wildlife biologist from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Horse clubs — a representative from the 4-H Horse Riding Club and Cedar Ridge Ranch Special interest groups — a representative from the Boy Scouts Neighbors — a number of neighbors Mountain bike club — a representative from the Ripon Mountain Bike Club

Summary of Comments

The following summarizes the comments received at the three meetings in October:

Specifically mentioned at meetings on Oct. 21, 1998

- Horseshoe pitching facilities
- Horse trails with grass or limestone screening surfaces
- Single track mountain biking trails
- Boardwalk through wetlands
- Opportunities for volunteer projects, such as Eagle Scout projects
- Consider the possibility of the school building for park use
- The drainage ditch must continue to carry the current capacity of water but locations may change



Other General Issues Discussed at the Meetings

- The school building appears well preserved, and could be used for community programming. The building contains four classrooms, a kitchen, a large gym area, various small offices, and restrooms, and also provides views to the park.
- Sand volleyball is a good complementary facility for the beach area but does not fit with the charitable gift agreement.
- A portion of the school property will be necessary to provide park access and parking.
- STH 23 is a limited access highway. Access to the park will need to be negotiated with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation.
- A sand-bottomed swim pond with bath house and beach facilities will encompass over 5 acres of land.
- The park parcel has been identified by the Wisconsin DNR as an excellent opportunity for wildlife habitat restoration activities. The County may be eligible for grant and technical assistance through the Glacial Habitat Restoration Program (see Appendix E).



MASTER PLAN

Goals

The following goals, derived from the preceding analysis and discussions with the Advisory Committee, form the basis for the Riggs County Park Master Plan recommendations:

- Develop Riggs County Park as a true community park that provides a variety of recreational activities for all members of the community.
- Allow some active recreation development while focusing on passive recreation opportunities.
- Provide for habitat restoration to the extent possible without eliminating recreational uses.
- Work with the existing natural resources on the site to minimize maintenance in the future.
- Provide safe access for all, including pedestrians and bicycles, and sufficient parking for bicycles as well as cars.

Design Issues

Issues identified during the analysis phase of the project included:

- The stipulations regarding recreational facility type outlined in the Charitable Gift Agreement must be adhered to.
- Wetlands and soil suitability for septic systems will limit the areas of the park that may be developed.
- State Trunk Highway 23 is a very busy highway. Safe access and egress from the park will be a concern, as well as noise pollution from the highway.
- Vehicular access points along STH 23 will be controlled by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation.
- Safe pedestrian and bicycle access to the park from the City of Ripon needs to be provided.
- A trail system to provide pedestrian access to the interior of the site should be provided.
- Provide trail linkages to surrounding environmental corridors and the potential rails-to-trails project north of the site.
- Protection and enhancement of the existing wetland native species is a concern, as well as the
 restoration of a prairie to the upland areas of the site.
- Installation of a sand-bottom swim pond in the park, with minimal damage to the natural resources on the site.



Design Program

The design program has been developed from three major sources of information: the Charitable Gift Agreement, public input during the meetings in the month of October, and meetings with County and DNR staff.

The Charitable Gift Agreement is summarized below:

Specifically mentioned as acceptable development

- Nature watching
- Passive recreation
- Nonmotorized vehicular trails
- Picnic facilities
- · Outdoor swimming and beach area
- Fishing



Specifically mentioned as not to be part of the development of the park

- Golf course
- Tennis courts
- Ball fields (including baseball, softball, volleyball and soccer)
- Snowmobile trails
- · Camping and other over-night facilities

The meetings with the public during the month of October indicated an interest in multipurpose trail development, such as horse trails with grass or limestone screening surfaces, single track mountain biking trails, and a boardwalk through the wetlands. Attendees also expressed a desire for projects suitable for volunteer efforts, such as the Eagle Scouts. Horseshoe pitching facilities and bench swings for adults would be welcome additions to the picnic area.

Meetings with County and DNR staff revealed a desire to restore native plant communities, both to provide wildlife habitat and to minimize the long-term maintenance needs of the park. DNR staff emphasized the potential for wildlife habitat development at the site.

Alternative Evaluation

On November 18, 1998, Schreiber/Anderson Associates presented two concept plans to the Riggs Park Advisory Committee. Potential activity and facility interrelationships were explored through two conceptual park layouts. The site analysis, public input, and stated design program goals were incorporated into both designs. The concepts were reviewed by the Advisory Committee and further refined into one concept plan. (The concept plans are located in Appendix B, Maps Numbers 2, and 3. Map 4 is a concept plan for the swimming area.)

Comments received regarding the options follow:

- Fond du Lac Historic Society is looking for old farm buildings. They may be interested in the Sherwood Farm buildings in the future. The City of Ripon Fire Department has also asked that any unneeded farm buildings be donated for fire fighting practice.
- The state is considering turning Douglas Street into STH 44 in Ripon. This will have an effect on park access from the west (or Ripon) side of the park.
- An Advisory Committee member asked about the length of trails within the park. Both options show about 2 miles of primary trail and two half-mile secondary loops. This would total approximately 3 miles of trails within the park, if all trails are built as shown. While the trail system received support, a concern was raised regarding the trails providing access for predators, and thus having a negative effect on the wildlife in the park.
- The secondary trail system will be useful for wetland and prairie vegetation management, as they will act as fire breaks during prairie burns.
- The school property was discussed. Most on the Advisory Committee would like to see it remain in public use, possibly as a nature center or community center, or perhaps as a town hall.
- Ice skating is offered at other parks and is not needed in this park. A sledding hill would also
 be somewhat redundant with locally provided recreation facilities. However, if the swim pond is
 built, the existing hill directly north of the school building could be enhanced with the material
 removed to create the pond.
- Sand volleyball courts within the park, even at the beach near the pond, would be in violation of the gift agreement and should not be included in the master plan.
- Horse trails will not work as the property is too wet. Access to the rail grade at the north edge
 of the site from the proposed parking lots will be difficult if not impossible for horses due to
 the soil conditions.
- A representative from the City of Ripon Parks Board pointed out that both options help the City of Ripon fill voids in their park system.
- The intersection of STH 23 and Douglas may present an access problem for Ripon children getting to the park on their own by walking or biking. A stoplight and crosswalks will make the intersection safer.
- Fishing need not be provided at Riggs Park, as it is addressed elsewhere.
- A staff member of the Planning Department asked if there is real support for the swim pond facility, and whether we could build wildlife ponds or fishing ponds instead? Many on the Advisory Committee feel that the swim pond is a very important part of this park and it should remain in the master plan.
- The parking lot should be designed to provide for parking expansion in the future as the park gains popularity.



Members of the Advisory Committee unanimously selected Option "B" as the better option. This option clustered the activity areas in the southeast corner, provided parking lots at the east and the west ends of the park, and provided approximately 3 miles of hiking and biking trails.

Concept Plan Refinement

On December 16, 1998, SAA presented a concept plan for the park that incorporated ideas and comments received at the November 18 meeting.

- 1) SAA requested a review by WDNR wildlife specialist Mark Randall. He felt the recreational development will compromise the wildlife habitat. After much discussion, the Advisory Committee expressed the opinion that the park should provide recreational opportunities to community residents, and the wildlife habitat should be accommodated where possible.
- 2) Access Points on the west side of the park were discussed at length. It was decided to leave the access points in at the farmhouse site, but to also plan for an access point at the town hall parking lot. The access at the town hall parking lot will provide bike and pedestrian access to the park from the City of Ripon, if needed before the farmhouse site becomes part of the park.
- 3) After a review of the detailed conceptual plan, we discussed the draft phasing plan and unit prices. The Parks and Development Committee felt that the 5-year capital improvements plan was an aggressive plan. However, they currently have over \$400,000 allocated to be used for 1999 Riggs Park development. A lengthy discussion took place regarding the availability of grant money and the use of volunteer labor to reduce the development costs. This report provides a discussion of various grant opportunities in the section titled "Funding Options." No comments were received regarding the proposed order of development.

On January 6, 1999, SAA presented an updated site plan to the Advisory Committee. The plan responded to comments received at the December 16, 1998 meeting. SAA also presented the first draft of the Master Plan Report. The phasing plan and cost estimates were reviewed at length. A summary of the comments received is provided below.

- 1) An Advisory Committee member commented that through the DNR Glacial Habitat Restoration program, and with help from volunteers, the cost to restore prairie and wetland native species to the park will be considerably less than indicated in the master plan cost estimate. SAA cost estimates reflect the probable cost to have a contractor provide and install all improvements to the park. It is our hope that the development of Riggs Park attracts much volunteer effort and generous donations. However, we feel obligated to provide Fond du Lac County with contractor costs for planning purposes.
- 2) While a "drop-off and turn-around area" for cars and a trail access point are acceptable at the Town of Ripon garage parking lot, a parking lot to serve the park would not be acceptable.
- 3) A committee member asked about the length of the trail system in the park. The primary trail is approximately 2 miles long, and the two secondary trails are 1/2 mile each.
- 4) It was noted that a detailed vegetation restoration plan should be in place before restoration activities begin. It was also noted that a much more detailed survey of the wetland vegetation is necessary before management decisions are made.

Below is a list of the highlights of the final meeting of the Advisory Committee on January 20, 1999:

- 1) The town hall access should not be included. Town board members are concerned that the traffic generated by the town garage may pose a threat to park users as they cross the town hall parking lot.
- 2) Some members of the committee had concerns that the phasing plan did not call for "visitor generator" facilities soon enough. A debate transpired over moving the pond installation to the Spring of 2000. In the final analysis the committee decided to leave the pond in Phase III.
- 3) The committee voted to indicate support for the plan. All committee members voted in favor of the master plan.

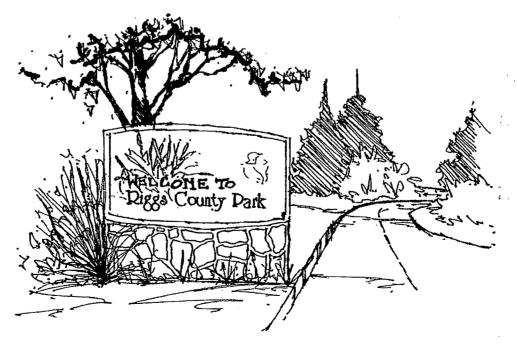
On February 9, 1999, Sam Tobias and Ann Freiwald presented the master plan to the Fond du Lac County Board.

Master Plan Recommendations

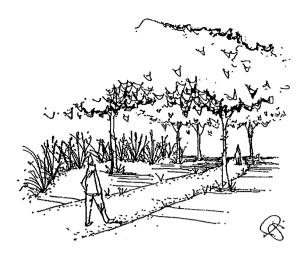
By combining the best features of the two concept plans and incorporated public comments, SAA developed a final master plan for Riggs County Park that illustrates the site character in detail and portrays the nature and extent of all activity areas and support facilities. The main design features in the master plan include the following, and are illustrated on Map #4 of Appendix B.

Vehicular Circulation

Automobile access to the park is provided at two locations: immediately north of the farmhouse off of Douglas Street, and on STH 23 directly across from Brandon Road, just west of the school building. No internal roads are proposed, as the use area of the park closely parallels STH 23. Both automobile access points lead to parking lots, which are designed to provide room to turn around and exit.







Pedestrian Circulation

Pedestrian circulation is accommodated within the park on a primary and a secondary trail system. The primary trail system is located on the "buildable" land, that is the crop land, on the site. The trail will be 8' wide and the surface will be gravel. It will accommodate walkers, baby stroller, bicycles, and wheelchairs. If growing use demands it, the trail could be paved in the future.

The secondary trail will be a combination of mown grass trails and boardwalks, and will be 5 feet wide. The secondary trail will require bridges to cross

Silver Creek and the drainage ditches. The trails will loop through the wetlands to allow access to the island, and an opportunity to view the wetland vegetation up close. When the abandoned rail grade which forms the north border of the site becomes a public trail, the secondary trail system should be extended to connect the park to the regional trail system.

The trail system at Riggs Park could also be used as a cross-country running course by Ripon College or local high school teams. The main parking area and shelter could serve as the staging area.



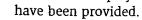


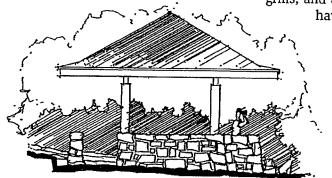
Swim Pond Area

The swimming area and beach will be located in the southeast corner of the site. The pond will have a sand bottom, and may require a clay liner to hold water. A synthetic liner is not recommended, as that would place the pond under the same regulations as a pool and considerably increase construction and maintenance costs.

Eastern Picnic Area

The eastern picnic area is closely associated with the swim pond. These two main features will form the most active area of the park. The picnic area and the swim pond will share a large parking lot. The lot will accommodate 80 cars and can be expanded to 160 parking stalls, if needed. A large picnic shelter suitable for rentals will be the central feature. Space for a playground, picnic tables, horseshoe pits, grills, and an informal play area (kite flying, Frisbee, etc.)





The primary trail system trailhead will be located near the shelter and the parking lot to allow park users easy access to the trail system. Restrooms to serve the picnic area will be located in the swim pond bathhouse. It will be necessary to plant trees and shrubs to provide human scale and shade to the picnic area.

Western Picnic Area

The western picnic area will be smaller and less formal compared to the eastern picnic area. The area will include a small picnic shelter, and a building combining maintenance storage area and restrooms. The picnic site will be closely associated with the old farmhouse and provide families with an opportunity to picnic in the "backyard" of this historic home.

Farmhouse

The farmhouse and surrounding yard provide an opportunity for a "living" museum with the support of an active friends groups, a program similar to Schumacher Farm in the Dane County Park System. Appendix F contains a copy of the Schumacher Farm newsletter published by the Friends of Schumacher Farm. Schumacher Farm has an old farmhouse and historically correct gardens. The Friends group holds numerous events during the spring, summer and fall of the year, such as a harvest fest, concerts and holiday teas, to bring people out to the farm and raise money for further improvements.

School Building

The school building is an asset to the community and could be adapted for any number of uses, such as community center, town hall, or nature center. Additionally, because the site is important as an access to the park, the County should work with the school district to secure permanent access here to Riggs Park. The easement should be big enough to accommodate entrance features that provide a gateway to the park. Features will include the driveway to the parking lot, a park identification sign, entrance landscaping, and short fieldstone walls.

Interpretive Sign System

The park site has an interesting history as an example of the agricultural lifestyle of east-central Wisconsin, and an interesting future as the park becomes one of the largest prairie restorations in the state. Topics for an interpretive sign program include native plant restoration efforts, farming history, the farmhouse, park donation history, and wildlife habitat.

Phasing Plan

Given the special conditions of the site, the phasing plan offers a logical approach to the installation of the capital improvements.

Public access is provided during the early phases while the uplands are still being farmed. This public access will build support for the new park and allow wetland restoration activities to begin in advance of the other improvements.

The purpose of the phasing plan is to provide guidance for the County in budgeting for capital improvements to the park. The plan also provides a general timeline to complete the park in six years. It is important to remain flexible, however. If opportunities to complete elements ahead of schedule arise, every effort should be made to take advantage of those opportunities.

Phasing Schedule

	PHASE I	Approx. Costs
1.1	Design Development for the first phases of park development	\$12,000
1.2	Construction documentation for Phase I work	\$25,244
1.3	Secure agreement with Sherwood Farms to access wetlands from STH 23	In House
1.4	Secure agreement with School District to share parking	In House
1.5	4 Seasonal visits to inventory the plant life found in the wetland	\$4,500
1.6	Install temporary park sign at school site and trail directional signage	\$800
1.7	Install Secondary Trail A boardwalk (approx. 1/2 mile in length)	\$269,500
1.8	Install Secondary Trail A observation deck (200 sq ft)	\$6,000
1.9	Install Secondary Trail A mown trail (700 ln ft)	\$7,000
1.10	Install Secondary Trail A bridge (40 ft long bridge)	\$27,500
1.11	Begin planning for Phase II work	In House
	Total Phase I (Includes 10% contingency)	\$387,798
	PHASE II	
2.1	Plan for construction of the wetland scrape and the spring burn	In House
2.2	Secure an access easement for the permanent drive way into the park	In House
2.3	Burn Area A of the wetland restoration (Spring 2000, about 75 acres)	\$1,200
2.4	Install wetland scrape SW of the island (Summer 2000, 1.5 acres)	\$10,890
2.5	Begin planning for Phase III work	In House
	Total Phase II (Included 10% contingency)	\$13,299

	PHASE III	
3.1	Construction documentation for Phase III work	\$194,388
3.2	Burn Area B, approx. 25 acres	\$400 🗸
3.3	Begin wetland restoration plantings, approx. 25 acres	\$150,000 🗸
3.4	Begin buffer tree planting along STH 23 (100 trees)	\$17,500
	Total Phase III (Includes 20% contingency)	\$434,746
	PHASE IV	·
4.1	Construction documentation for Phase IV	\$44,504 🗸
4.2	Install primary trail system (gravel surface, approx. 6,776 ln ft)	\$115,200 🗸
4.3	Continue wetland restoration (approx. 25 acres)	\$150,000
4.4	Tree plantings in eastern picnic area (50 trees)	\$8,750
4.5	Install park entrance features at the STH 23 entrance	\$15,000
4.6	Install second and third wetland scrapes (Summer 2002, approx. 3 acres)	\$20,328
4.7	Continue tree planting along STH 23 (100 trees)	\$17,500
4.8	Western picnic area, shelter, overlook, tables and grill, playground, bench swings, horse shoes and garbage cans	\$229,525 Portuliza.
	Total Phase IV (includes 20% contingency)	\$720,968

	PHASE V	
5.1	Construction documentation for Phase V	\$38,960
5.2	Begin prairie restoration in the upland areas, including the island (33 ac)	\$200,000
5.3	Install Secondary Trail B boardwalk (2,100 ln ft)	\$231,000
5.4	Install Secondary Trail B observation deck (200 sq ft)	\$6,000
5.5	Install Secondary Trail B mown path (500 ln ft)	\$5,000
5.6	Install Secondary Trail B bridge (40' long bridge)	\$27,500
5.7	Continue tree planting along STH 23 and in eastern picnic area (100 trees)	\$17,500
	Total Phase V (includes 20% contingency)	\$631,152
	PHASE VI	
6.1	Construction documentation for Phase VI	\$26,900
6.2	Continue prairie restoration (33 acres)	\$200,000
6.3	Continue wetland restoration (20 acres)	\$120,000
6.4	Install swim pond, bath house, reshape hill with pond spoils	\$1,386,000
6.5	Install island observation deck (200 sq ft)	\$6,000
6.6	Install interpretive signs throughout park, 6 signs in the system	\$10,250
·	Total Phase VI (includes 20% contingency)	\$2,098,980
	-	
	TOTAL ALL PHASES	\$4,286,943

Funding Options

The need for public support and funding is essential to implementing a park master plan. To achieve public support, an overall community awareness of the park's unique recreation opportunities and benefits must be cultivated. Once achieved, public support translates into political support in the County budgeting process and increases chances for private funding support.

Federal funding assistance, once the mainstay of major park development, has been substantially reduced, leaving capital appropriations and bonding as the major sources of public funding. This places a new emphasis on the use of private funding and management to implement recreation facilities. In addition to funding at the local level, the range of federal and private funding options is described below.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Stewardship Program (DNR)

The Stewardship Program was created in 1989 by the Wisconsin Legislature and provides for a 10-year, \$250 million fund to enhance the state's outdoor recreational resources. Up to 50% of the cost of proposed projects is paid for by the state, with the remaining share paid by the local government in cash or in-kind services. Jeff Pagels, the District Community Services Specialist, has met with the County Planning Department during the planning process to discuss funding opportunities. Another meeting will be in order prior to submitting future grant applications. The Lake Michigan District office serves Fond du Lac County and is located at 1125 N. Military Avenue, Box 10448, Green Bay, WI 54307-0448. The phone number is (414)497-4034. Applications are typically due May 1 of each year.

The grant programs included in the Stewardship program are:

- 1. Land and Water Conservation Fund Act Program (LAWCON)
- 2. Aid for the Acquisition and Development of Local Parks (ADLP)
- 3. Urban Green Space Program (UGP)
- 4. Urban Rivers Grant Program (URGP)
- 5. Streambank Protection Program (SBP)

Other Public Assistance

1. Urban Forestry Grants

These are 50% cost share grants (cash or in-kind services) that range from \$1000 to \$25,000. The program is designed to improve a community's capacity to manage its trees. Projects that help preserve, protect, expand or improve the urban forest are also considered. More information is available from Tracy Salisbury, the DNR Lake Michigan District Urban Forest Coordinator; her phone number is (920)492-5950. The grant program requires that an "Intent to Apply" form be submitted; this is usually due June 30 of each year.

2. Wisconsin Conservation Corps (WCC)

The WCC is a State agency that employs 18-25 year olds to implement conservation and community development projects across the state. The labor is free, but project sponsors are required to pro-

vide tools, equipment and materials to complete the project. Any unit of government or nonprofit organization can be a sponsor. Contact Larry Corsi, the WCC Projects Coordinator, at 30 W. Mifflin, Suite 406, Madison, WI. (608)266-7730.

3. Army Corps of Engineers (ACE)

A role of the ACE is to provide earthwork assistance for public projects while providing practice for their crews. This work may consist of stripping topsoil, balancing cut and fill, placing topsoil, and final grading. They provide the necessary manpower, while the municipality furnishes the necessary fuels and other materials. For more information, contact the ACE at Army Corps 961 Engin. Bn., 5326 W. Silver Spring Dr., Milwaukee, WI. (414)438-6229.

4. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Glacial Habitat Restoration Program

This program is designed to assist public and private landowners in developing wildlife habitat on their property. The DNR provides technical assistance and funding in some cases. See Appendix E for a description of project types.

Private Funding Sources

1. Private Grants

A comprehensive listing of private funds available for a wide variety of purposes is found in the *Foundation Directory*, published annually by the Foundation Center, New York. An excellent source for information on environmental grant funding is *Environmental Grantmaking Foundations* published by Resources for Global Sustainability, Inc., Rochester, New York.

2. Business/Corporate Sponsorship

Many businesses are interested in bettering the communities they work in to enhance public relations and promote their products or services. Financing park projects and providing promotional materials such as T-shirts and brochures gives businesses positive and valuable visibility.

3. Nonprofit Corporations

The park could benefit from a "Friends of Riggs County Park" nonprofit organization, comprised of individuals willing to donate their technical, business or financial expertise to help develop and manage the park. The Friends could be established as an umbrella group to promote and assist the development of the park in general, or to help with a specific aspect of the park, such as interpreting the farmhouse. According to the DNR's *Friends Group Handbook*, these groups can provide and coordinate volunteer services, provide financial support for projects, and raise money through membership fees, donations, sales and special events. Nonprofit organizations are also eligible to receive most government and private grants.

4. Local Interest Group Contribution

Labor and monetary contributions from service groups, softball or other athletic leagues, scouts and other organizations can be solicited for park projects such as maintenance, planting and care of floral beds, and construction projects. "Adopt-A-Park" programs are a structured way of obtaining long-term commitments from organizations or individuals.



- 5. Fundraising drives and benefits, festivals, art fairs, outdoor concerts or plays, flea markets, etc. are ways to raise money to develop and maintain park facilities. Gift catalogs that list desired amenities and construction items allow contributors to purchase specific park features for commemorative or other purposes.
- 6. Tree planting promotions

Arbor Day, Adopt-a-Tree, memorial trees and business gift trees are ways to implement and maintain landscape improvements.

Building Public Support

The following strategies for achieving public support focus on creating awareness of the unique recreational opportunities to be found at Riggs County Park.

- 1. Visibility campaigns "People for Parks" and "Adopt a Park" programs can introduce people to the activities and benefits of a new park facility.
- Neighborhood and special interest group briefings Periodic meetings with neighborhood and special interest groups acquaint them with the scope of the proposed park development, the intended development schedule, and the important role their active support will play in the park's development.
- 3. *Media coverage* Furnish local media sources with information on the park planning process, master plans, park graphics, development priorities, construction progress, and available recreation facilities.
- 4. Special events Encourage local organizations to use the park site for their special events, and sponsor special events to draw attention to the new park facilities.
- 5. Promotional materials Throughout the planning and implementation phases of the park's development, promotional materials (plans, sketches, facility and activity lists, or photos of completed facilities in use) should be available to potential park sponsors. Brochures are useful for promotion and fundraising.



MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS PROJECTIONS

To provide Fond du Lac County with planning information on future maintenance and operation needs, we have made several assumptions. The projections below are based on a fully-developed park with both picnic areas—including the shelter and restrooms—in operation, the prairie and wetland restoration activities in full swing, and the entire trail system installed and operational. The swim pond needs are not included here, as many design decisions remain for that facility, and these will affect maintenance needs.

Our analysis is based on an approach for man-hour estimates found in *Park Maintenance Standards*, published by the National Recreation and Park Association in 1986. This book outlines six different modes of maintenance. These modes refer to the way maintenance is done, ranging from the most labor intensive to the least labor intensive. The modes range from Mode I "State-of-the-Art Maintenance" to Mode VI "Minimum Level Maintenance." Our analysis places Riggs Park in Mode V "High Visitation Natural Areas." This mode, slightly modified from the original to fit Riggs Park, is defined as follows:

- 1. Turf Care For the most part unmowed, except heavy-use areas, areas surrounding buildings, parking lots and possibly drives. Weed control only on noxious weeds.
- 2. Fertilizer None
- 3. Irrigation None
- 4. *Litter control* Based on visitation, may be more than once per week if crowds dictate. However, analysis assumes once per week.
- 5. *Pruning* Only done for safety.
- 6. *Insect and Disease Control* Done only to ensure safety or when a problem seriously discourages public use.
- 7. Snow removal One-day service on roads and parking areas.
- 8. Lighting Replaced on complaint or when noticed by employees.
- 9. Surfaces Cleaned on complaint. Repaired or replaced when budget will permit.
- 10. *Repairs* Done when safety or function impaired. Should have same-year service on poor appearance.



- 11. Inspection Once per week as other weekly tasks are performed.
- 12. Floral Planting None introduced except at special locations, such as those associated with interpretive displays. Floral planting associated with interpretive displays will most likely be native wildflowers and will require no regular maintenance. Flowering trees and shrubs present but also demand no regular maintenance.
- 13. *Restrooms* Frequency geared to visitor level. Once per week is the expected level of service. Frequency may be increased for special occasions.
- 14. *Special Features* Repaired whenever safety or function are a concern. Appearance corrected in the current budget year.

The Full Year Projected Maintenance Needs table is found on the following page. A summary of the required staff hours by season is found below.

Spring (April, May, June)

One-Time Only Tasks

87.25 hours

Weekly Tasks

31.00 hours (needed during May and June only)

Total Hours:

335.25

Summer (July, August)

One-Time Only Tasks

None

Weekly Tasks

31.00 hours (8 weeks)

Total Hours:

248.00

Fall (September, October)

One-Time Only Tasks

21.75 hours

Weekly Tasks

31.00 hours (8 weeks)

Total Hours:

269.75

Winter (November through March)

Semi-monthly Tasks

54.00 hours

Total Hours:

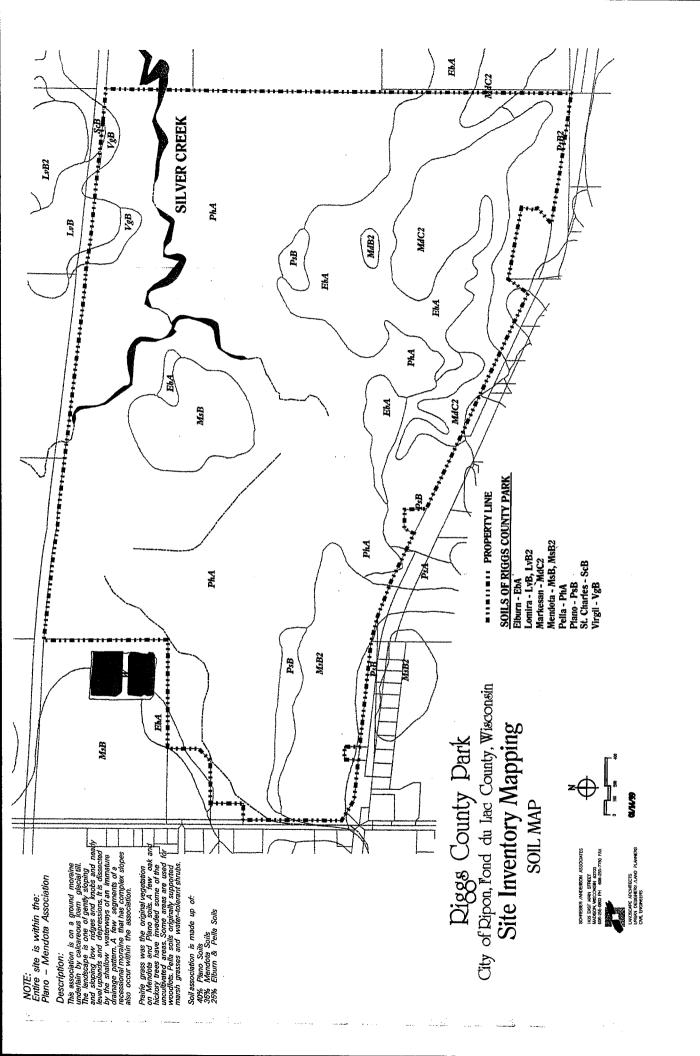
54.00

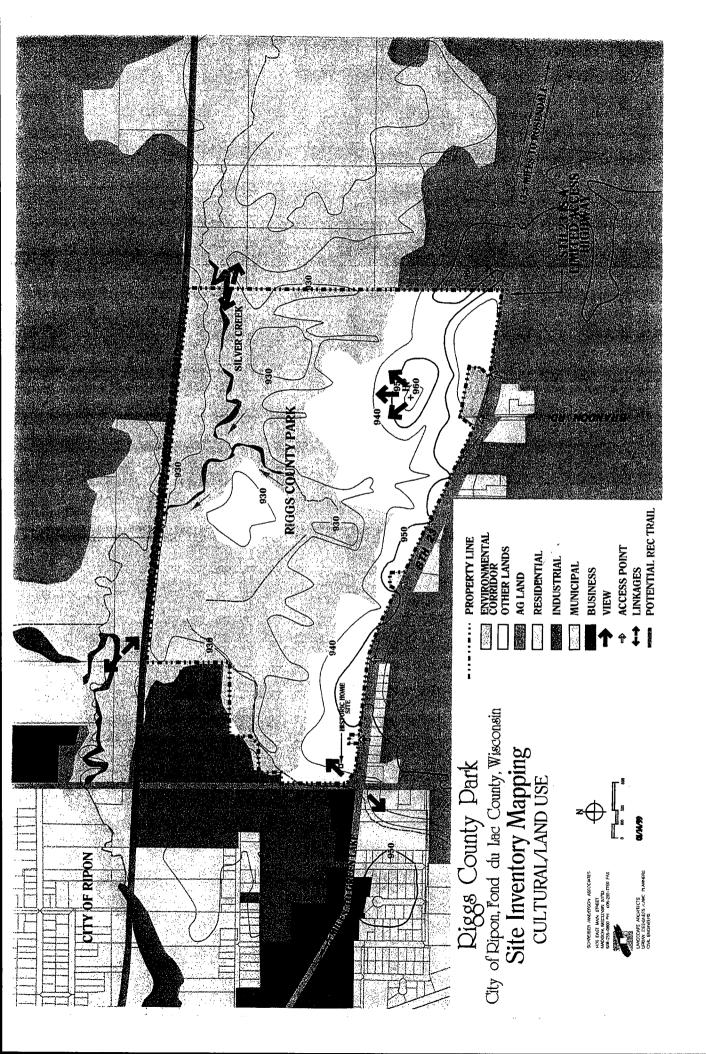
Grand Total Hours Required for the Year: 907.00 or slightly less than one half-time staff person

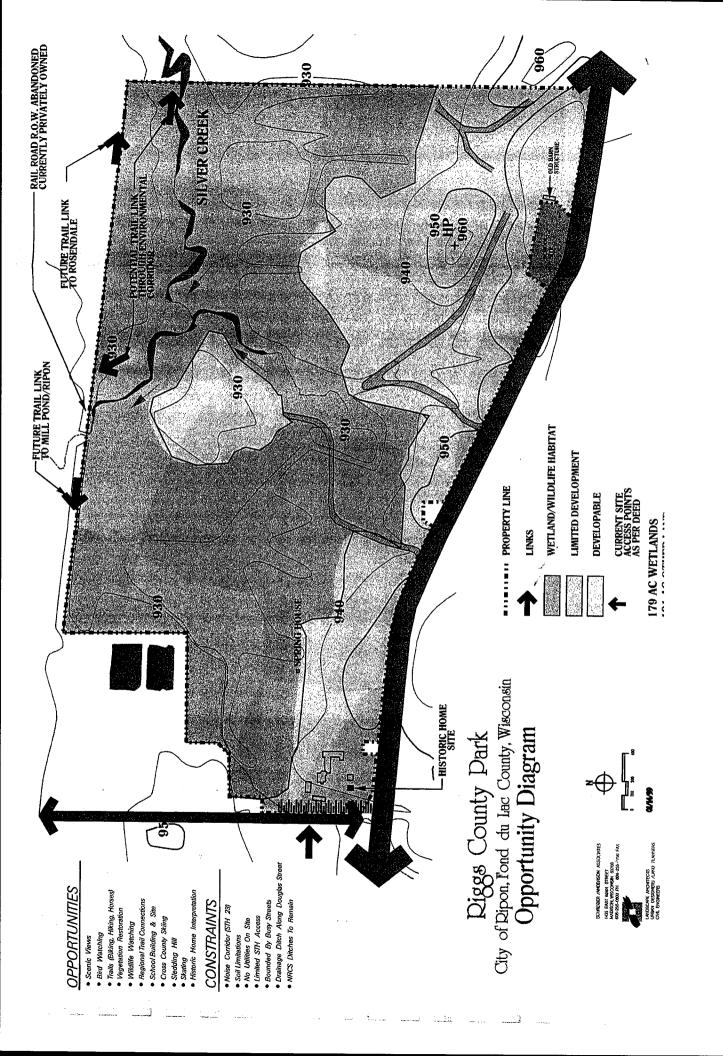
APPENDIX A

Site Analysis Maps





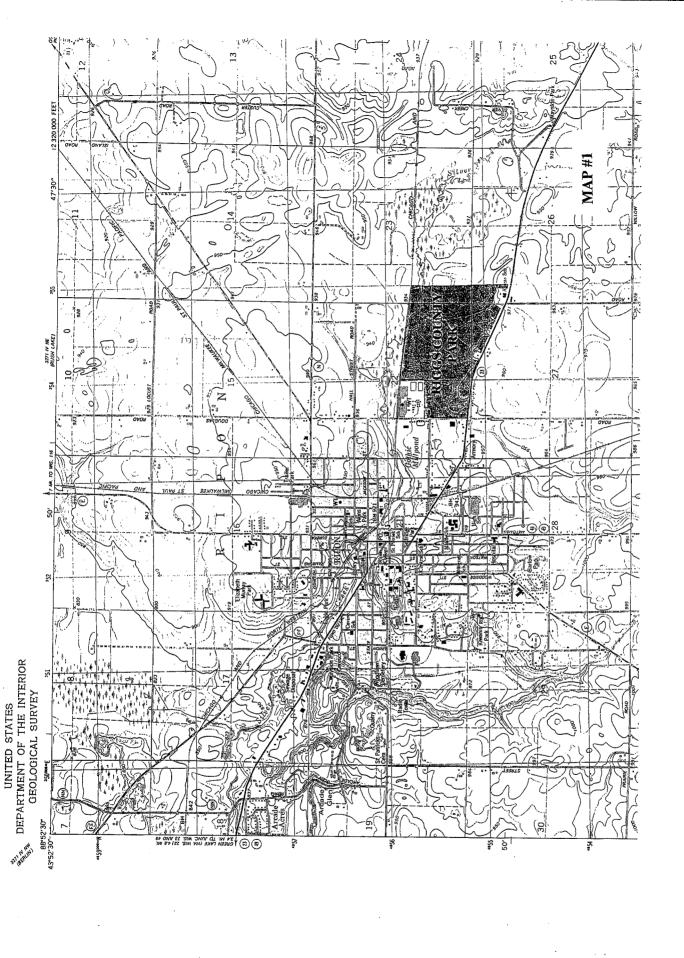


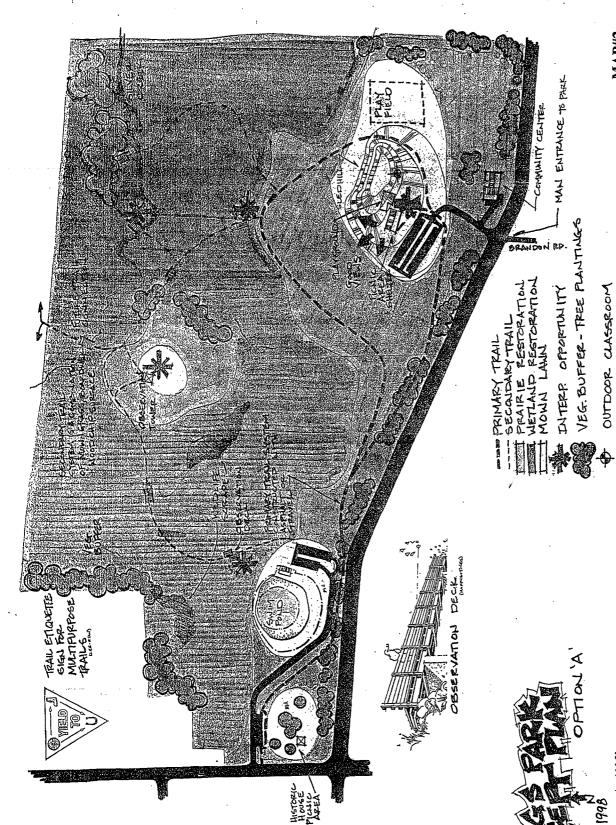


APPENDIX B

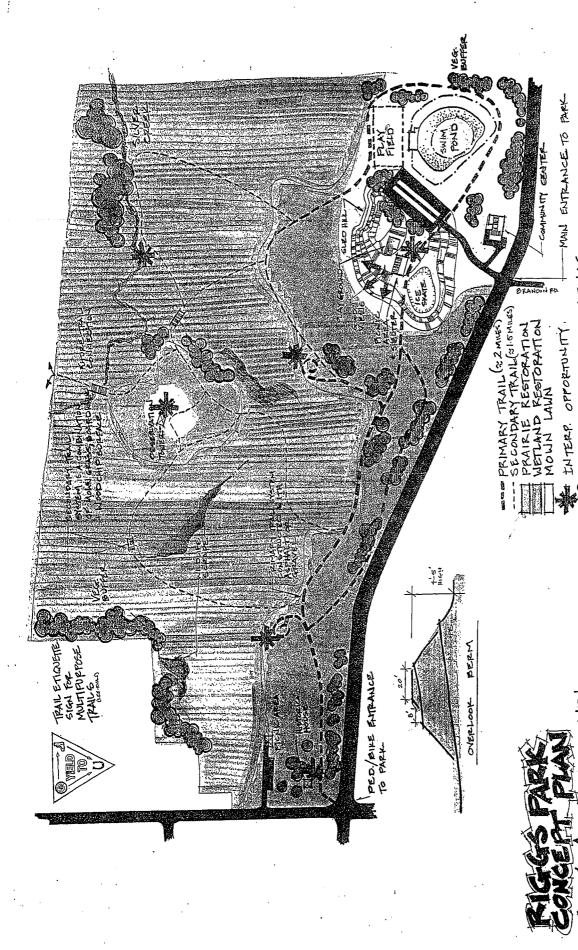
Site Location and Concept Plans





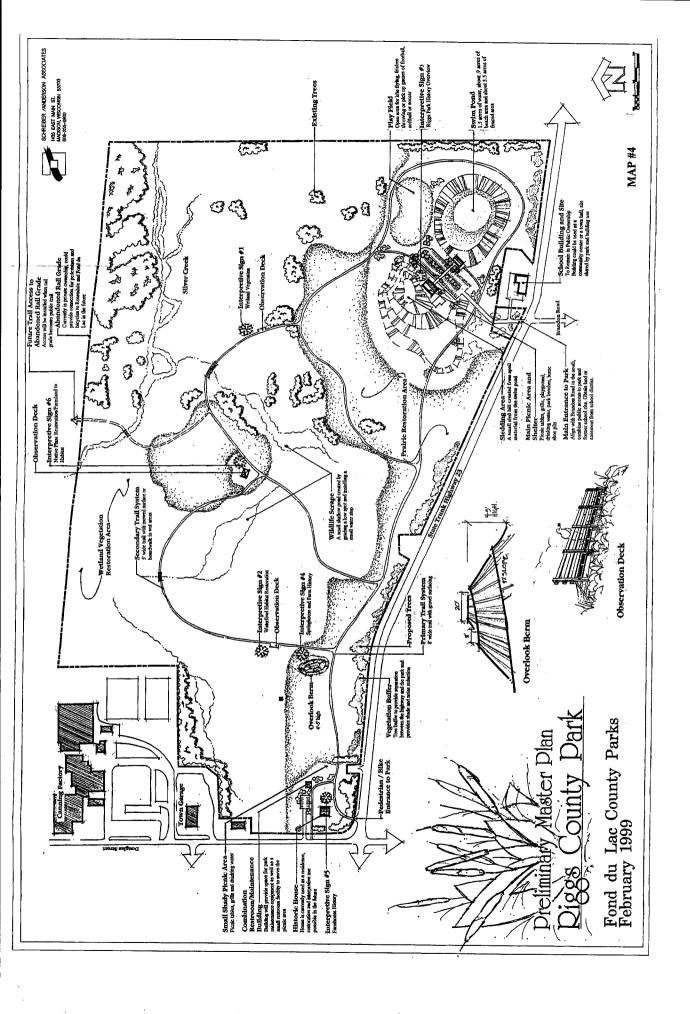


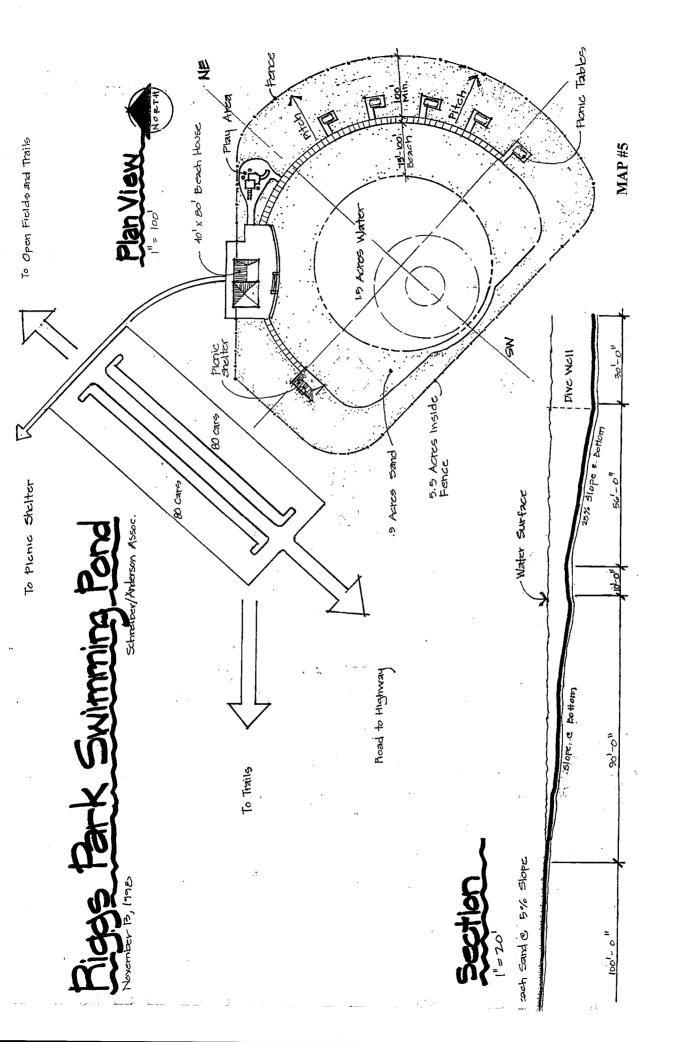
MAP#2



VEG. BUFFER-TREE PLANTINGS

OUTDOOR CLASSIROOM



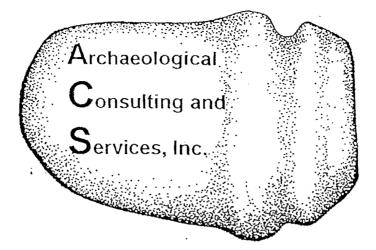


APPENDIX C

Archaeological Consulting and Services, Inc.

Reports of Investigations





REPORTS OF INVESTIGATIONS

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF PORTIONS OF

RIGGS PARK IN FOND DU LAC COUNTY, WISCONSIN

OCTOBER, 1998

REPORT NUMBER

1108

PREPARED BY PHILIP H. SALKIN

ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTING AND SERVICES, INC. 102 E. PARK LANE VERONA, WISCONSIN $_{\rm S45}$ $^{\rm S}$

PROJECT SUMMARY

Title: An Archaeological Survey of Portions of Riggs Park in Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin

I.D.: ACS 1108 SHSW

Principal Investigator: Philip H. Salkin

Archaeological Consulting and Services, Inc.

102 E. Park Lane

Verona, Wisconsin 53593

Project Personnel: Ted Waddington

Brandy Gunderson

Tony Kuhner

Contractor: Schrieber Anderson Associated

1435 East Main St.

Madison, Wisconsin 53703-3024

Methods: Literature and Records Search

Pedestrian Survey

Results of the Survey:

No Native American artifacts were recovered from the project area. Euro-American materials were limited to surface finds of recent age and a piece of glass.

Recommendations:

No additional archaeological work is recommended for the project area as no sites were encountered which might be eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

Dates of Field Work: October 20th and 21st, 1998

Date of Report: October 30th, 1998

Abstract

On October 20th, and 21st 1998, the author conducted an archaeological survey of a portions of Riggs Park in Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin. In the course of the survey, the project area, which lay entirely in agricultural fields was subjected to pedestrian survey. No Native American materials were recovered and Euro-American materials were limited to surface finds of recent age and a piece of clear glass. No previously reported sites have been identified for the project area, although one may have been in some proximity. No additional archaeological work is recommended for the project area as no sites were encountered which might be eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

Table of Contents

Introduction
The Area2-2
The Project Area5-
Previously Reported Sites in the General Project Area
Methods
The Results of the Survey
Summation and Recommendations
Curation
Bibliography 10-1
<u>Figures</u>
Fig. 1 - The Location of the Project Area in Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin
Fig. 2 - The Location of the Project Area in Fond du Lac County
Fig. 3 - The Topography of the General Project Area

Introduction

On October 20th and 21st, 1998, the author conducted an archaeological survey of portions of Riggs Park in Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin. The purpose of the survey was to determine if any archaeological resources might be impacted by the development of portions of the park. The entire park area is approximately 121.5 acres (300 acres in size), but the survey was limited to the approximately 47 hectares (116 acres) which may be impacted by construction. The project area is located in the S1/2, Sec. 22, the N1/2, NW1/4, Sec. 26 and the NE1/4, Sec. 27, T16N, R14E, Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin.

The survey was conducted by the author with the assistance of Ted Waddington, Brandy Gunderson and Tony Kuhner. The study was conducted for the firm of Schreiber Anderson Associates of Madison, Wisconsin.

The Area

The project area is located in northwestern Fond du Lac County in the southeastern portion of Wisconsin (Figs. 1-2). This portion of the state lies in the Eastern Ridges and Lowland Province, a region characterized by a relatively level topography and elevations ranging from about 140 to 378 meters m.s.l. near Lake Michigan to 378 meters m.s.l. in the Madison area. The region is dominated by cuestas; ridges with steep escarpments on one side and long, gentle slopes on the other (Martin 1965: 212). The general project area is underlain by the dolomites, limestones and shales of the Sinnipee Group (Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey 1981). To the immediate west is a narrow belt of sandstones, limestones, shales and conglomerates of the St. Peter Formation, which separates the Black River and Magnesian Cuesta to the west from the Rock River-Lake Winnebago-Green Bay Lowland to the east. The general area is covered by ground moraines, with an area of end moraines to the east (Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey 1976).

Prior to the intensive Euro-American settlement of this portion of Fond du Lac County, the dominant vegetation communities were the oak savannahs and smaller areas of prairie. The former included upland stands of bur, white and black oak, with a mesic prairie understory and lowland stands of swamp white oak with a wet, mesic prairie understory (Curtis 1959: 87-88). The latter areas were dominated by non-arboreal species of grasses (such as bluestem), forbs and some woody brush (ibid: 262). Finley (1976) also shows the presence of some oak stands and wetland communities.

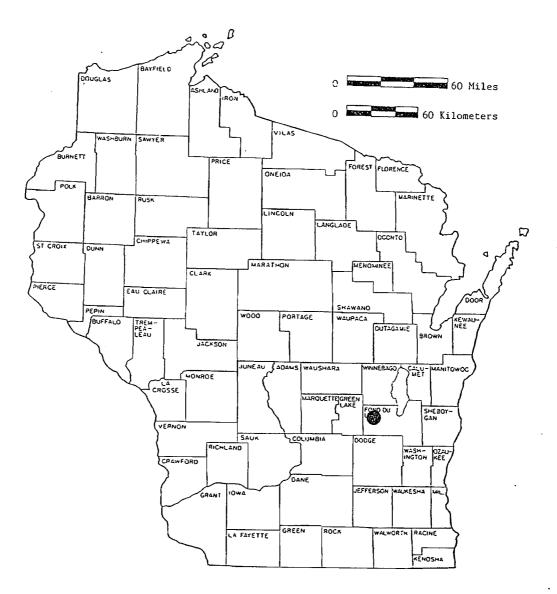


Fig. 1 - The Location of the Project Area in Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin

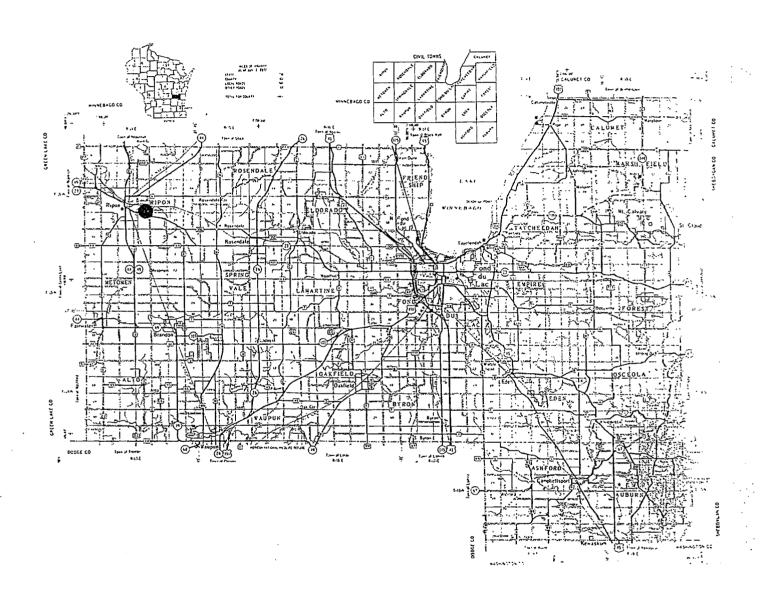


Fig. 2 - The Location of the Project Area in Fond Du Lac County, Wi. (WisDOT map)

The Project Area

The project area is located north of S.T.H. 23 and east of the City of Ripon. The northern boundary of the park with a railroad corridor (Fig. 3). The survey area was limited to those areas in agricultural fields. Most of these area are located in the southern portion of the park along the highway, but there was also a field in the north-central portion of the park (Fig. 3). The survey areas were generally in the higher, rolling portion of the park, with elevations ranging from about to 286.5 to 292.6 meters m.s.l. Much of the portion of the park can be described as wetland with elevations below 286.5 meters m.s.l.

Several soil types are found in the project area. They include the following:

- Elburn silt loam, 0-3% slopes somewhat poorly drained soil found in broad areas between gently sloping low ridges and hills formed in moderately deep silt and calcareous loam glacial till under a cover of prairie grasses (Link 1973: 66-67)
- Mendota silt loam, 2-6% slopes, eroded well-drained soil found on low hills and ridges formed in a moderately deep silt mantle underlain by calcareous cannery loam glacial till under a cover of prairie grasses (ibid: 87)
- Plano silt loam, 0-2% and 2-6% slopes well-drained soil found on broad plains and side slopes of low ridges and hills formed in moderately deep to deep silt over calcareous cannery loam glacial till under a cover of prairie grasses (ibid: 93-94).

To the north of the survey areas is a low area with Pella silt loam, 0-3% slopes soils. These are poorly drained soils that develop in silt (Link 1973: 92-93).

At the time of the survey, the project area included several fields. These were either harvested or had a cover of alfalfa. In all cases there as considerable surface exposure.

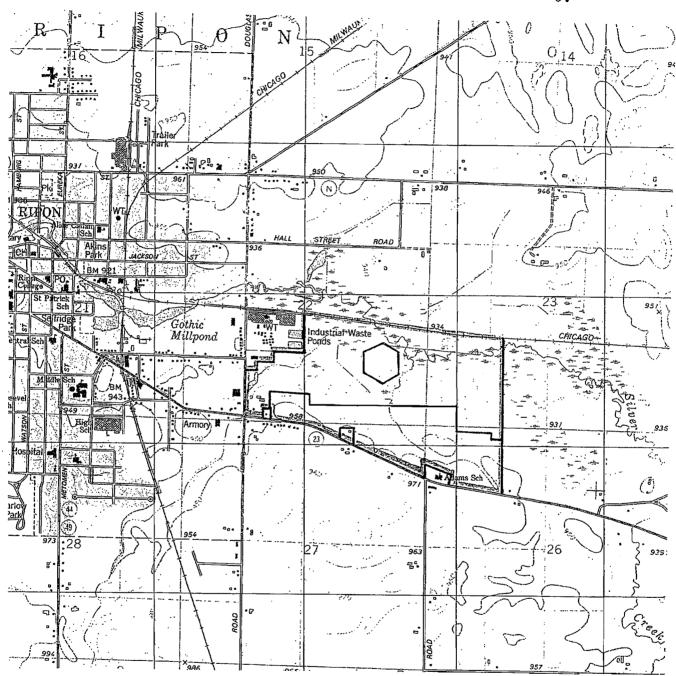


Fig. 3 - The Topography of the General Project Area Surveyed Areas in Yellow Ripon, Wis. Quad 1980 1:24,000

The general project area is in proximity to several water resources. As noted the northern portion of the park area includes some significant wetlands. Silver Creek runs through the marsh and very close to one of the surveyed fields. Several small, intermittent drainages also run through the area.

Previously Reported Sites in the General Project Area

Prior to the initiation of the field work, a literature and records search was conducted on the previously reported sites in the general project area. The following data sources were utilized:

Site files and archives of the Wisconsin Historic Preservation Division

Site files and archives of the Wisconsin Burial Sites Preservation Office

Archives Division of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin

Charles E. Brown Atlas

Charles E. Brown Manuscripts

National Register of Historic Places

Wisconsin Archaeologist.

The literature and records search was sufficient to indicate the presence of over 450 previously reported sites in Fond du Lac County. Of these, only one might be in any immediate proximity to the project area; 47Fd60. This site is listed in the State Historical Society of Wisconsin site files as in Sec. 23, T16N, R14E, with no more specific data. The reference is to a

letter in the Charles E. Brown Manuscripts. The letter is a memo to Brown from a Rep. Geo.

Pasco. He noted the presence of a camp or village site on the Clapp farm on Silver Creek. The

Clapp farm does not appear in Sec. 23, T16N, R14E on the 1904 plat, although he may have been
a renter. However, a site on Silver Creek in Sec. 23 is probably north or northeast of the project
area. A review of various maps and plats indicates the presence of various Euro-American
structures and a school in the immediate area back to the mid-19th century. However, these do

not appear to have been in the fields which were the subject of this study.

Methods

As the entire project area lay in agricultural fields with good conditions for surface observation (with the exception of a drainage swale), it was subjected to pedestrian survey. This was done at five meter intervals.

Results of the Survey

No Native American artifacts were recovered from the project area. Thus, no evidence for site 47Fd60 was encountered. Euro-American artifacts were limited to a few surface finds of modern materials such as rubber, paper and plastic and one piece of clear glass.

Summation and Recommendations

On October 20th and 21st, 1998, the author conducted an archaeological survey of portions of Riggs Park in Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin. In the course of the survey, the project area, which lay entirely in agricultural fields, was subjected to a pedestrian survey. No Native American artifacts were recovered. No evidence for the presence of 47Fd60 was found. This site might have been in some proximity to the project area. Euro-American artifacts were limited to surface finds of recent age and a piece of clear glass.

No additional archaeological work is recommended for the project area as no sites were encountered which might be eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. It is always possible that deeply buried archaeological materials may be present. If such materials are encountered in the course of construction, immediate consultation may be obtained by contacting the Compliance Section of the Wisconsin Historic Preservation Division at 608-264-6507. If burials or potential human remains of any kind are found, the Burial Sites Preservation Office should be contacted at 608-264-6503.

Curation

All materials associated with this project will be curated at the facilities of Archaeological Consulting and Services, Inc. in Verona, Wisconsin.

Bibliography

Curtis, John T.

1959 The Vegetation of Wisconsin. University of Wisconsin Press. Madison.

Finley, Robert W.

1976 Original Vegetation of Wisconsin. University of Wisconsin Extension. Madison.

Link, Ernest G.

1973 Soil Survey of Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin. USDA Soil Conservation Service. Washington, D.C.

Martin, Lawrence.

1965 The Physical Geography of Wisconsin. University of Wisconsin Press. Madison.

Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey.

1976 Glacial Deposits of Wisconsin. Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey. Madison.

Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey.

1981 <u>Bedrock Geology of Wisconsin</u>. Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey. Madison.

Maps and Plats

- 1862 Map of Fond du Lac County. Wisconsin Bogert and Haight
- 1874 <u>Illustrated Atlas Map of Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin</u> Harney and Tucker Fond du Lac
- 1893 Plat Book of Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin C.M. Foote and Co. Minneapolis
- 1904 Fond du Lac County Map Reporter Printing Co. Fond du Lac
- 1910 Plat Book of Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin Kenyon Company Des Moines

- 1911 Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin Rural Delivery Routes US Postal Service Washington, D.C.
- 1917 Ownership Map and Guide of Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin W.W. Hixson and Co. Oshkosh
- 1924? Plat Book of Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin W.W. Hixson and Co. Rockford
- 1930 Atlas of Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin W.W. Hixson and Co. Rockford
- 1934 Fond du Lac County Farm Directory North Star Publishing Co. Appleton
- 1948 Plat Book of Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin Marathon Map Service

Additional Sources

Site files of the Wisconsin Historic Preservation Division

Site files of the Wisconsin Burial Sites Preservation Office

Charles E. Brown Atlas

Charles E. Brown Manuscripts

National Register of Historic Places

APPENDIX D

WDNR Plant List



Riggs County Park- Fond du Lac County

Plant list developed from brief site visit on Oct. 21, 1998 Observer- Mark Randall, Wildlife Biologist, Horicon WDNR

Prairie Species Observed

Sawtooth Sunflower

Marsh Milkweed

Grassy Leaf Goldenrod

Yellow Coneflower (Greyheaded Coneflower)

Blazing Star

Golden Alexander

Bluejoint Grass

Various Sedges-Tussock Sedge

Prairie Cordgrass

Prairie Dock

Various Asters- New England

Riddell's Goldenrod

Mountain Mint

Boneset

Joepyeweed

Wild Rose

Common Milkweed

Yarrow

Turtlehead

Sneezeweed

Blue Vervain

Wet mesic to wet prairie/sedge meadow communities

Also noted a wild pheasant population- flushed 3 roosters

Please note: Strongly recommend a native plant inventory conducted on the property

SAA Project # 1481

APPENDIX E

Glacial Habitat Restoration Project Types



For further information on the Glacial Habitat Restoration Area contact:

Mark Randall
Wildlife Biologist
Glacial Habitat Restoration Area
1210 N. Palmatory St.
Horicon, WI 53032

Phone:(920)485-3007 Fax: (920)387-7888



Turn in Poachers
Call DNR Hotline
to report violations
1-800-847-9367
(Strictly Confidential)



GP9/97

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources N7725 Highway 28 Horicon, WI 53032

VISITOR'S GUIDE

Glacial Habitat Restoration Area

Wisconsin Department of

Natural Resources

WILDLIFE HABITAT RESTORATION SITE



PUBLIC LANDS FUNDED BY THE WISCONSIN STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM SPONSORED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PUB-WM-265 97

Glacial Habitat Restoration Area

wildlife habitat management that focuses 11,000 acres of wetlands within a 530,000 public hunting.(See GHRA Parcel Listing) acre area that consists of 24 townships in (GHRA) Project is a regional approach to waterfowl, wild pheasants and non-game the landowner and access is only granted well as securing perpetual easements, on parcels ranging in size from ten acres up The Glacial Habitat Restoration Area to a few hundred acres. Only those proppopulations to increase and expand, are on establishing a patchwork of restored easements are still under the control of Winnebago Counties. In order to attain become public property and are open to to establish 38,600 acres of permanent these goals, the DNR is purchasing, as wetlands, grasslands and croplands to designed to allow the existing wildlife erties that are purchased by the state songbirds. The goals of the program, Those propertics that have perpetual create more favorable conditions for grassland nesting cover and restore Columbia, Dodge, Fond du Lac and by permission of that landowner.

Hunting on the GHRA

Please stay within the posted property boundaries. It is very important to respect private property and landowner's rights.

Trespassing is illegal and can result in a fine up to \$1,000. You must have the landowner's permission to go on to adjoining private lands.

A majority of the fee title parcels are less than 100 acres in size. A general rule of thumb for a safe, quality hunting experience is no more than two hunters per forty acres. If there is a group already hunting on the parcel, please, come back another time. This will reduce confrontations and avoid hunting practices that degrade the safety and quality of the sport. Recognize the rights and privileges of others sharing the same land. There is enough game to go around.

The cropland area will be restored to permanent native prairie grass and forb nesting cover over the next few years, if it hasn't been already. Please respect sharecropper's crops. Avoid these cropped areas until harvested to prevent unnecessary damage. These crops belong to a neighboring farmer in exchange for preparing, planting, and maintaining the native prairie grass and forb cover type of these parcels. Do not drive onto fields or access lanes and do not block any gates.

Remember! These parcels will not be stocked with pheasants. The intent of the program is to allow the existing wild pheasant populations to increase and expand due to increases in suitable habitat. Refer to the current hunting regulations pamphlet for season dates. Support game laws and daily bag/possession limit so that future generations can have the same outdoor experiences we now enjoy.

Rules and Regulations on HRA Parcels

Only those parcels we purchase by fee title are open to the public for hiking, sightseeing, hunting and trapping. Only foot travel is allowed, no horses or motorized vehicles. All regulations and restrictions that pertain to state wildlife areas also pertain to the "Public Land" - Glacial Habitat Restoration Area parcels.

A few of the restrictions are:

- No littering.
- No shooting towards or within 100 yards of buildings.
- No camping or overnight parking.
 - No fires.
- No target shooting.
- No parking or driving on fields or access lanes.
- No unleashed dogs April 15 July 31.

Please avoid observing and photographing animals that disrupt nesting activities

Please help keep these parcels clean. Take the time to pick up the litter of others. The more time and money we need to spend on litter pick up and repairing acts of vandalism, the less money we have for wildlife habitat restoration. This directly affects you and wildlife populations!



George E. Meyer Secretary Horicon Field Station 1210 N. Palmatory Street Horicon, Wisconsin 53032 TELEPHONE 414-485-3026 TELEFAX 414-387-7888

GLACIAL HABITAT RESTORATION AREA PROJECT OPTIONS

Perpetual Easement- WDNR establishes and maintains cover. Landowner retains right to control access. Property remains in landowner's name. Easement is recorded on the deed and is transferred to new owner if land is sold. Easement price is based on independent appraisal using sales of similar land in the area. Habitat maintenance is done by WDNR.

Perpetual Easement with Land Use Agreement- WDNR purchases a perpetual easement. Landowner and WDNR agree on conversion plan for cropland into nesting cover. Landowner is involved in the conversion of cropland into nesting cover over an agreed upon time schedule.

20 Year Cost Share Agreement- WDNR establishes cover, at no cost to the landowner. The landowner agrees to leave the practice in for 20 years. The landowner may contribute to the cost of establishing the practice. The landowner does contribute the value of the land rent for the 20 years of the agreement. The landowner takes an active role in the management of the habitat for the time of the agreement. The landowner controls the access rights of the property.

10 Year Cost Share Agreement-WDNR aids in the establishment of a practice, usually with another agency. The practice must remain for 10 years. The landowner may contribute to the cost of establishing the practice. The landowner must maintain cover as indicated by all agencies involved in the cost-sharing of the practice.

Technical Assistance to **Landowner**- Field visit and discuss options the landowner has to improve wildlife habitat on the property. Discuss short term and long term wildlife management opportunities for the property.

Fee Title Purchase- WDNR can purchase land from willing sellers. The lands must fit within the habitat models for the target species. The lands then become public and are managed by the WDNR for wildlife habitat.

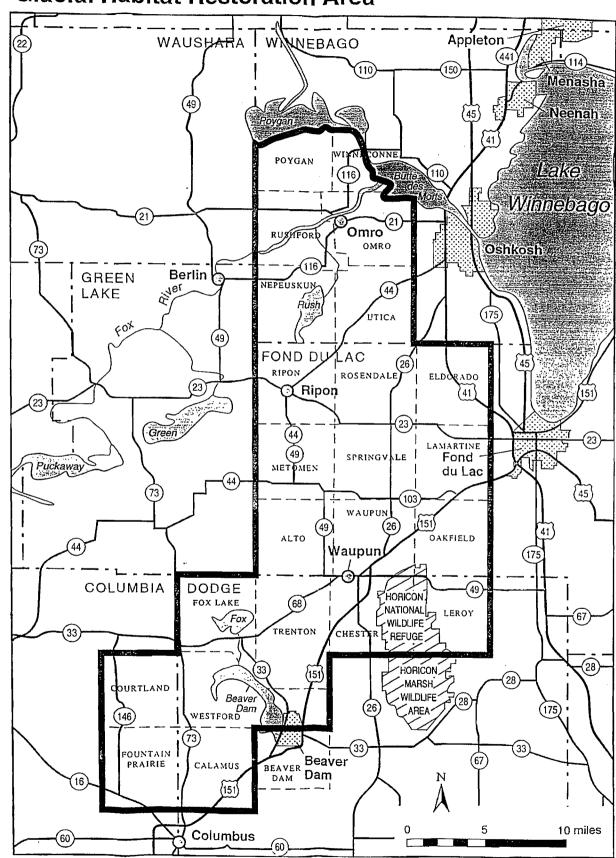
Habitat is created, restored, or enhanced for grassland songbirds, pheasants, and waterfowl. Conversion of existing cropland into wildlife habitat is one focus area of the project. The establishment of nest cover on upland sites and the restoration of wetlands are two ways to improve the land for wildlife habitat.

The protection of unique landscape types is another focus area of the project. Oak savannas and sedge meadows are two examples that could be protected with funds from the project.

The goal of the Glacial Habitat Restoration Area Project is to create a patchwork of wildlife habitat on private lands over a large landscape. A mosaic of cropland and wildlife habitat across the area will benefit both human and wildlife populations.



Glacial Habitat Restoration Area



3/1995

APPENDIX F

Friends of Schumacher Farm Newsletter



Vol. VIII No. 4

SCHUMACHER FARM COUNTY PARK

Winter, 1998-99

PRESERVATION - RESTORATION - EDUCATION

SCOUT WALKWAY PROJECT

In October, Chris Shaw of Waunakee accomplished his final Eagle Scout requirement by constructing a new stone walkway at Schumacher Farm. Approximately two feet wide by twenty-one feet long, it matches the existing path to the kitchen, and branches from it to the south porch off the dining room. This now provides a circular route through the farmhouse on busier, public event days.

Chris organized a work crew and arranged for needed materials prior to the drizzly workday. The workers completed the task by seeding the fill around the stones. The new grass got a good start during the long fall season. A bonus is a pile of sand left over from the project that will be used for a children's sand box in the spring.

Thank you to Chris and all his helpers for this improvement at the farm!



Photo by Judith Borke

TRAILS PREPARED FOR WINTER USE

The Dane County Parks Department has advised that it will be packing the trails at Schumacher Farm this winter. The firmer surface will make it easier to hike and cross country ski on the trails around and through the prairie. Trail users can park in the driveway near the farm buildings or in the large public event parking lot off Schumacher Road.

A GRANARY DILEMMA

Inasmuch as the Friends of Schumacher Farm plan to replace outbuildings that were removed years ago. Board members were delighted when offered a traditional, substantially-built granary. The 20' by 28' structure is one of a few remaining buildings of a farmstead south of Madison in Fitchburg.

However, the Friends would have to pay the cost of having the donated building moved approximately fifteen miles, skirting the city. Only one moving company has provided a cost estimate of \$19,500. Efforts are underway to make the relocation more affordable before the Board can accept the building. Any advice or suggestions would be helpful, and can be called in to the office, at 849-4559.

MORE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AT SF

There has been a lot of activity at Schumacher Farm this fall besides public events. Visitors who enter the farmstead will immediately notice the garage has vanished! Although the storage space had been convenient, the garage was slated for removal in the Master Plan. More compelling, the leaking roof had created unsafe conditions and a mold haven inside, and was not reasonably fixable. In only four hours, County Parks workers Butch Richmond, Russ Birkholz and Norbert Bernards demolished and hauled the it away. The concrete slab, however, was left in place, and can serve as a base for picnic tables, for dancing, and various other uses.

A sticklier project was the **repair of rotted** floor joists under part of the kitchen. It was difficult because there is no basement under the kitchen nor access to the crawl space under the floor. Eric Stensaas of the County Parks Department enlarged the rotted hole and wiggled under the floor to replace or splice joists and beams, some of which had been cut off when central heating was added. In the end, he blended and installed new maple flooring, and incorporated a trap door in case there is ever need to visit that little corner of the world again.

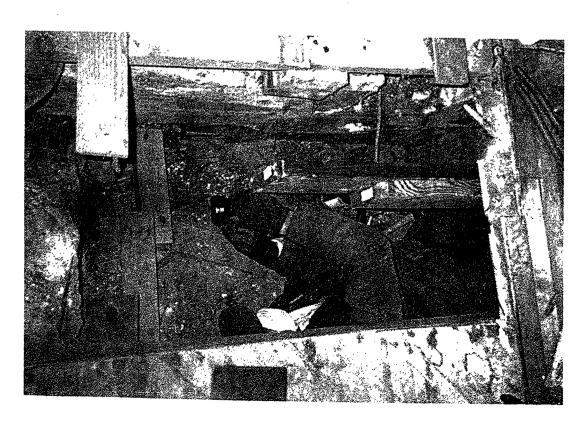
Volunteer Carroll Holtz took on the task of repair and finishing work needed in the small, central

utility hallway on the main floor. Although only four feet by six feet, it includes a closet and four doorways into the kitchen, dining room, bathroom and basement. Earlier removal of 30-year-old plywood cabinets revealed damaged plaster, corners and woodwork. It is now repaired with a fresh coat of paint.

Thank you to Butch, Russ, Norbert, Eric and Carroll for helping make Schumacher Farm a better place!

MASTER PLAN STATUS

The new Master Plan for Schumacher Farm received final approval by the Board of Directors at their meeting on December 8. It must be reviewed and approved by the Dane County Parks Department and Dane County Parks Commission before being presented to the Dane County Board for acceptance. On Wednesday, January 27, the FSF Board, the Parks Department and Parks Commission will have a joint meeting to discuss the Plan's provisions. Any interested Friends members are also welcome to attend the meeting. It will be held at the Schumacher farmhouse at 5:15 p.m.



It was cold, dark and tight for Eric Stensaas working under the kitchen floor.

Photo by Judith Borke

THE PRAIRIE IN WINTER

by Mary Binkley

Although most people do not consider a walk through the prairie in mid-winter to be particularly interesting, there are always beautiful things to see if you look closely. These may appear in the form of dried prairie plants in widely varying shades of brown and grey, tunnels created by meadow voles, empty bird nests, tracks left by birds, mice, rabbits or raccoons, or perhaps crystals of frost or snow clinging to the dried plants.

Look closely at the empty seed pods and stems; many plants have managed to retain their beauty. Numerous plants are still recognizable now. Here are a few of them:

White and purple vervain can be found sprinkled around in the lower portion of the prairie. The white vervain is a tall, slender plant which has a very loose plume of stalks at the top with seeds spaced intermittently along them. The purple vervain has a much more compact seed arrangement, making it appear more stocky. Both species have square stems.

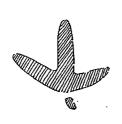
The dried stems of <u>St. Johnswort</u> are now a very pleasing, red-brown color. It holds its cluster of seed pods, each with short bracts beheath, about 12"-18" off the ground. The pods are full of lots of very tiny black seeds which can easily be shaken out.

The <u>black-eyed susan</u> flowerhead is an easily recognized member of the prairie. It may seem rather dull to most people, but take the time to examine it closely. Notice the perfectly arranged spiral pattern it contains, shake a few of very numerous, minute black seeds into your hand, and perhaps it may become somewhat fascinating.

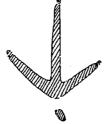
Take the time to walk slowly and notice the tracks left by birds and small mammals. They were doubtless on their way to or from a food source or shelter. Can you discover what they were eating or where they were going?



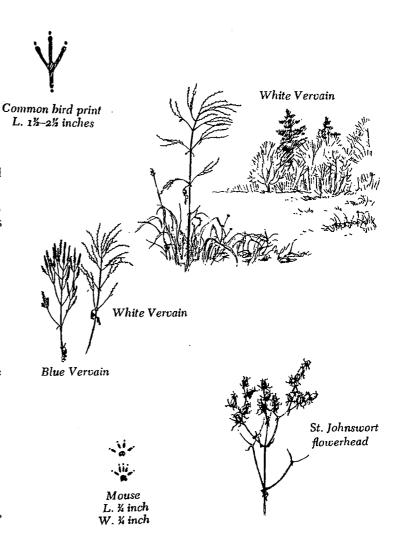
Bobwhite L. 2 inches

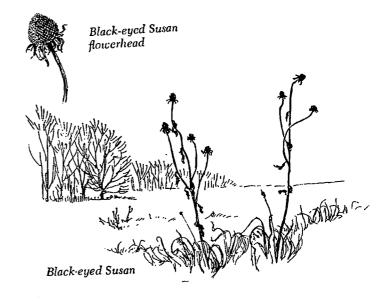


Grouse
L. 2 inches



Pheasant L. 3 inches





Rabbit and Hare:

HERITAGE-HARVEST FEST & HOLIDAY TEAS: THE FINALE OF FSF'S 1998 PUBLIC EVENTS

Simply put, the Heritage-Harvest Fest was a popular event again this year. Approximately 450-500 people attended the festival on September 20, a very pleasant Sunday afternoon. Activities included cider pressing, candle dipping, quilting, a cake walk, heirloom gardening, dying and spinning flax, wood working, cleaning grain, shingle splitting, children's games, horse-drawn wagon transportation around the prairie, a special postal cancellation and fiddle music. Some barnyard animals also participated this time. Docents interpreted the house and the barn's contents, the Waunakee High School foods classes provided home-baked goods, and volunteers brought cakes for the lucky cake-walk winners. An incredible number of dedicated volunteers team up to make this annual event possible and successful.

The Holiday Teas in December were a new, reservation-style function this year. Some people felt the highlight of the teas was the brief (very brief) lighting of the tree candles as a finale while "Oh Christmas Tree" was sung. Others felt each table's hurricane lamp and tea pot dressed in a cozy were special. Some really enjoyed the singing, poetry and different foods that were served. Maybe it was the sizzling wood cookstove. Or the mice that ate the popcorn and cranberry garland on the tree. But altogether, the teas offered guests a simple alternative to prevalent seasonal glitz. Volunteers Margaret Meyer and Mary Thompson created a memorable holiday observance for the men and women, young and old who attended the teas.

This year's four public events -- the Concert and Picnic in the Park, Summer Plays, Heritage-Harvest Fest and Holiday Teas -- were registered as Wisconsin Sesquicentennial events to help honor the state's 150 years. The Friends of Schumacher

Don Duesterbeck demonstrates his craft at Heritage-Harvest Fest.



Farm's Board of Directors wishes to honor and thank <u>all</u> the volunteers who participated in the Friends' mission: "to provide a living history museum and nature conservancy that offers a representation of Dane County's rural heritage through preservation, restoration and education."

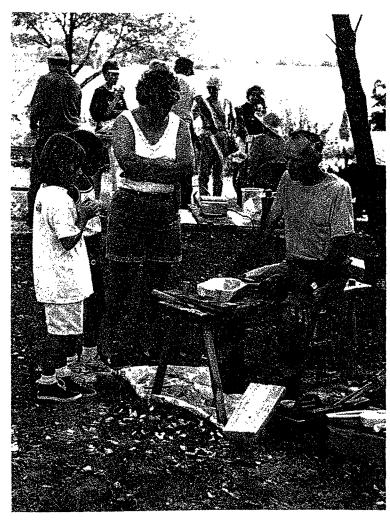
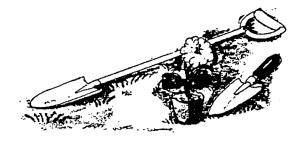


Photo by Robert Arntz



By Allen Holzhueter

I have been receiving seed catalogs since early December, with six delivered on Christmas Eve, so it must be time to begin planning for the new year. Schumacher Farm will have a booth at the WHA Garden Expo on February 19-21. Plan to attend for an early breath of spring. If anyone would like to help tend the booth, call me by early February.

I have been thinking about the garden at the Farm. There is a lot to do this year. We have to put a board fence around the vegetable garden, plant apple trees, and begin the long-delayed re-doing of the flower beds. There is a lot of work -- if you like gardening, here is an opportunity to get your hands dirty and enjoy fresh produce and flowers in the process. Please call me at 238-0546 if you are interested in a cooperative arrangement.

THANKS TO:

Thank you

for their time and talents...

Robert Arntz and John Kurtas, for special events photography;

Carroll Holtz, for household repairs;

Margaret Meyer and Mary Thompson, for producing the Holiday Teas;

Waunakee High School students, who sang, played, acted and cooked for the 1998 public events; the many, many volunteers who assisted at 1998 public events;

for their donations...

Fabrita Orchard & Garden Gallery, for three additional flats of flower bedding plants;

Eunice & Carroll Holtz, for an artifact collection; Peg Tierney, for a set of antique dishes and a Swedish angel wood carving;

Ken & Karen Borke, for a Mr. Coffee Concepts coffee brewer;

Quality Machining, Inc., Orchids by the Ackers, Nord Gear Corp., Madison Freight Systems, Geneva Ingredients and Humane Restraint Co., for public events funding;

Hannah Friedlander, John & Margaret Krause, Peg Tierney, William Lunney & Judie Pfeifer, Ed & Judy Borke, Helen Navarre and Pat Asmussen for financial donations.





Photo by Judith Borke

WESTPORT'S EARLY LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Soon the Town of Westport will be 150 years old. On March 31, 1849, the township assumed the standardized six-mile-square area composed of thirty-six sections of 640 acres each. It extended from Easy Street on the northern edge into what is now parts of Madison and Middleton to the south. It utilized the standard township form of government with three elected supervisors, including the town chair, and two residents elected as town clerk and as treasurer. The clerk and treasurer were non-voting.

Until a few decades ago, town residents were predominately farmers. During the 1960s, the village of Waunakee within the township started to grow quickly. In recent years, accelerated development pressure from Waunakee, Madison and Middleton and the resulting annexations by those communities have greatly reduced the size of Westport. In addition, there are numerous residential subdivisions within the township, much less agricultural land and very few farmers. As of April, 1997, town officials now consist of five elected supervisors and an appointed combination town clerk/treasurer/attorney. Although an administration building was added relatively recently, the old town hall is still used for elections and larger meetings.

Carl Hanson of Westport recalls that years ago, elections were hotly contested. In fact, in the early days, "everything was an issue because there wasn't anything else going on."

Frances FitzGibbon, now 91 years old, moved to Highway K in Westport from Madison in 1935 when she married Wayne FitzGibbon, a farmer. She worked on Westport's election board for a few years and then was elected town treasurer for approximately twenty years. She agreed to share her memories of some aspects of town government in earlier days.

"THIS IS HOW WE DID IT," #7 -- Town Government

by Frances FitzGibbon, as told to Judy Borke

Initially, the town hall was not used regularly. There was no office space, so I worked at home. The monthly town meetings were held on the second floor of the old Waunakee State Bank building at the corner of Main and South Streets (now Brian's Diner.) I also held office hours on the main level of that building two or three times during tax collection time. Later, an addition was put on the town hall that included office space, so we longer met in Waunakee.

As town treasurer, I received pay -- but very little. I wrote monthly checks for the town board members, the clerk and myself. My job didn't require a great deal of time except during tax time.

In those days, the clerk had to levy taxes based on figures from the state, county, local schools and fire district. The clerk filled out the tax roll in a huge book with all the figures totaled at the bottom of the page. Then I checked all the numbers and wrote out all the bills in longhand. There were a lot of them, because the township was mostly agricultural then, and each parcel had a separate figure. Some farmers owned many parcels.

Then I was almost full time, especially near the deadline. People would stop by our farm and drop off their checks. If we had been away, we'd find checks stuck in the door when we came home.

When I was treasurer, there was no registration for elections. The clerk and I wrote all voters' names into separate books as they came to the table. One book was turned in to the County, and the other was kept in Westport archives. I recall that at one time, they were stored upstairs in the old town hall.

People voted in standing booths with curtains that were put up just for election day. When the elections closed, the inspectors, or election

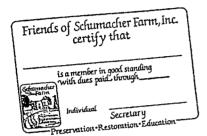
workers, emptied the ballot boxes and called out the names marked on the ballots. The clerk and I sat with separate sheets that had the slate of candidates' names. For each ballot, the inspector called out the names and we made a mark for each vote. We would enter them in groups of five, made with four vertical lines and one diagonal line through the four (1111). It took time to mark the votes one by one, so it was often past midnight before the clerk could call the County with the results.

Sometimes for a local election, there would be quite an audience watching the ballot counting. I don't remember what the particular issue was, but one time it was very heated, and people were hovering over us during the count, and some got very loud.

I don't recall much about campaigning in general, and didn't campaign much myself. I do remember the clerk and I might do a little campaigning for our own elections by calling on several people in person in the Fox Bluff area. That was part of Westport, but, initially, the people there didn't get too involved. After about twenty years, I felt I had served long enough and decided not to run for public office any more.

BITS AND PIECES

- ** The 1998 Annual Report will be mailed to all FSF members prior to the end of February, 1999.
- ** The FSF joined the Greater Waunakee Area Chamber of Commerce in October.
- *** The annual Midwest Museums Conference was held at the Monona Terrace Convention Center in Madison October 28-31, 1998. Site coordinator Judy Borke attended two days as a representative of her other job with the Wisconsin Conservation Warden Museum. Over 600 people attended the event.



SF'S WISH LIST

Thank you to those who donated items on previous *Timothy and Daisies* Wish Lists. We keep thinking of things! Following are items Schumacher Farm is currently seeking. Please contact Judy Borke at 608-849-4559 if you have leads on any of these items. Thank you!

old Christmas tree ornaments, preferably from 1930s old silverware for indoor functions, any amount older, wooden book cases old shelf clock 1920s-30s wall calendars folding chairs, preferably wooden card tables photocopier, in good working condition filing cabinets, legal size 35 mm camera with flash, in good working condition



MEMBERSHIP IN THE FRIENDS IS OPEN TO EVERYONE!

We encourage your membership in the Friends of Schumacher Farm. Your participation in our activities is most valuable, but even if that is not possible, membership demonstrates support for what the Friends are doing. It also places you on our mailing list. We hope you'll take a few minutes to send in the following form. Membership runs from June 1 to May 31 of the following year.

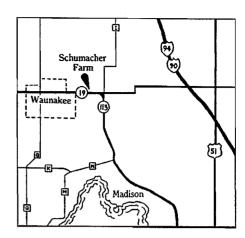
Membership in Friends	of Schumacher Farm			
Name	Membership dues \$			
Address	Charitable contribution \$			
City	Total enclosed \$			
State Zip Telephone #	Mail form and check payable to Friends of Schumacher Farm, Inc. to: 5682 Hwy 19, Waunakee, WI 53597-9557			
Individual \$10.00 Family 15.00	Friends of Schumacher Farm, Inc. is a 501(c) charitable organization.			
Non-Profit 50.00 Business 100.00	Interested in volunteering? Preferred activity?			

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

1999 public events & dates to be announced.

Jan. 11	Board of Directors meeting, 7 pm, farmhouse
Jan. 27	Joint mtg., Board of Directors, Dane Co. Parks
	Dept. and Commission, 5:15 pm, farmhouse
Feb. 9	Board of Directors meeting, 7 pm, farmhouse
Feb. 19-21	WHA Garden Expo, Dane County Fairgrounds
Mar. 9	Board of Directors meeting, 7 pm, farmhouse
Apr. 13	Board of Directors meeting, 7 pm, farmhouse
May 11	Board of Directors meeting, 7 pm, farmhouse

Note: Board of Directors meetings are open to all Friends of Schumacher Farm members.



NEW FRIENDS' BOARD MEMBER

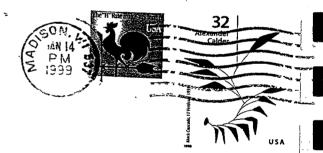
Ron Williamson joined the Board of Directors for FSF last fall. Ron is a land surveyor and life-long Westpot resident. He brings an understanding of area culture and history and acts as liaison with the local business community. Welcome, Ron!

Timothy and Daisies is the official publication of the Friends of Schumacher Farm, Inc., a support group for Schumacher Farm County Park. It is written, except where otherwise noted, and produced quarterly by Judith Borke, Site Coordinator, Schumacher Farm, 5682 Hwy 19, Waunakee, WI 53597.

Friends of Schumacher Farm, Inc.

Limpth and Darsies

Preservation•Restoration•Education—5682 Highway 19•Waunakee,Wisconsin 53597
608-849-4559



8

_						
				÷		
_						
_						
_						
_						
_						
_						
					· ·	
_						
			•			
_						
_						
_						
_						
						<u></u>
_						·
_						
_						